

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2014

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The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

To meet burgeoning consumer demand for mobile data services, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has called for 500 MHz of new commercial spectrum over the next ten years. Working in a bipartisan fashion, we have responded to the public interest in securing additional spectrum for broadband use with a variety of policy efforts and legislative measures. One of the cornerstones of our work has been to encourage government incumbents to relocate from the AWS-3 band and to ensure that the AWS-3 spectrum is made available for licensing on a paired basis, which is ideal for broadband deployment.

After years of planning and effort, the FCC recently announced its intention to auction the AWS-3 spectrum for commercial use on a paired basis later this year. We applaud that. As the FCC finalizes its band plan and rules for an auction of the long-sought AWS-3 spectrum, we write to stress the importance of creating strong incentives for wireless carriers to compete in the auction. We urge the Commission to put forth a band plan that allows for robust competition, maximizing revenue through vigorous auction participation.

We recognize the FCC must balance many competing public interest goals in designing spectrum band plans, geographic license areas, and block sizes. We understand that is not an easy task. We encourage the FCC to work towards creating a band plan that encourages a robust bidding process that maximizes revenue in the upcoming AWS-3 auction. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


BRETT GUTHRIE
Member of Congress


DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

April 15, 2014

The Honorable Doris Matsui
U.S. House of Representatives
2434 House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

DORIS
Dear Congresswoman Matsui:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Commission's intention to auction the AWS-3 Band for flexible, commercial use on a shared basis with federal uses. I appreciate your desire for the Commission to adopt a band plan that encourages vigorous auction participation and robust competition.

On March 31, 2014, the Commission unanimously adopted the *AWS-3 Report and Order*. The *Order* adopts allocation, service, licensing, and technical rules for 65 megahertz of spectrum, including 50 megahertz of paired spectrum at 1755-1780 MHz and 2155-2180 MHz. The upcoming auction will expand the workhorse AWS-1 commercial wireless band, which today is available for mobile broadband use. The Commission adopted a band plan that will promote competition by offering licenses comprised of different geographic license areas and block sizes. This band plan will serve the spectrum needs of a variety of applicants, and promote auction participation and robust competition.

The Commission's action set the stage for an auction of the AWS-3 spectrum licenses later this year. While adopting the *AWS-3 Report and Order* is a big step toward making this spectrum available for commercial use, additional details must be resolved before this auction can take place. We will address these challenges so that all parties have certainty about their rights and obligations in AWS-3, and to ensure that the auction is robustly competitive and successful.

Sincerely,


Tom Wheeler

THANKS FOR YOUR
LEADERSHIP WITH
OUR CONSUMERS
FRWDS T



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

April 15, 2014

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
U.S. House of Representatives
308 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Guthrie:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Commission's intention to auction the AWS-3 Band for flexible, commercial use on a shared basis with federal uses. I appreciate your desire for the Commission to adopt a band plan that encourages vigorous auction participation and robust competition.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Tom Wheeler